

FEB 23 2004

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OFFICIAL

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|-------------|--|---|----------------------|
| Applicant:  | LABARGE ET AL.   | ) |                      |
| Serial No.: | 09/805,682   | ) | Group Art Unit: 1754 |
| Filed:      | March 13, 2001   | ) |                      |
| For:        | ALKALINE EARTH / RARE EARTH<br>LEAN NO <sub>x</sub> CATALYST | ) | Examiner: E. Johnson |

VIA FACSIMILE: (703) 872-9306  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RCE PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

This amendment is submitted in response to the Final Rejection dated October 22, 2003, the Advisory Action dated January 30, 2004, and Applicants discussion with the Examiner on February 6, 2004. Please amend the claims as follows: